



Pharmacist prescribing

A research project exploring both existing and potential avenues for pharmacist independent prescribing in Ontario

Known as OPEN, the Ontario Pharmacy Research Collaboration is a \$5.77 million multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research program comprised of a number of projects that are examining the quality, outcomes and value of new and emerging medication management services that pharmacists and other healthcare professionals provide.

Pharmacist prescribing project

This OPEN project is assessing the uptake and impact of pharmacist authority to renew and adapt prescriptions on patients and our health system. The authority to renew chronic medications and to adapt the dose, formulation, regimen or route of prescription was granted to Ontario's pharmacists in 2012. Project researchers are investigating this recent pharmacist medication management service to gain important insight into what helps and hinders its provision.

Pharmacist renewal and adaptation of prescriptions

This component of the project has two broad research goals —

1. To determine the uptake by and impact on pharmacists and pharmacies of the authority granted to pharmacists to renew chronic medications and to adapt the dose, formulation, regimen or route of prescription
2. To identify what determines service provision and options to overcome identified barriers

Future opportunities for pharmacist prescribing

In Alberta, pharmacists can obtain special authorization to prescribe within their skill set. In some other Canadian provinces, pharmacists are prescribing for commonly encountered minor ailments. This component of the project seeks to understand stakeholder perspectives about future opportunities for expanding pharmacist prescribing in Ontario.

Opportunities for students

Students on OPEN's projects are provided with individual and collaborative experiential and applied-learning opportunities to develop and enhance their training and research skills. Student training focuses on knowledge translation, pharmacy practice and health service research skills. Importantly, students learn from and network with other researchers, their peers and knowledge users, strengthening research rigour as findings are put into practice.

Research based, knowledge-user driven

OPEN has strong ties to its knowledge users — individuals from partner organizations who apply project findings to improve pharmacy practice, the effectiveness of services pharmacists provide to their patients, and the quality of healthcare in Ontario.

Project researchers

Project lead: Dr. Lisa McCarthy, University of Toronto

Project members: Drs. Nancy Waite (co-lead on the future opportunities for pharmacist prescribing component) and Kelly Grindrod, University of Waterloo, Lisa Dolovich, McMaster University; Nedzad Pojskic, University of Toronto

Would you like to learn more?

Please contact **Elizabeth Bojarski**, BA, MPH, research coordinator at e.bojarski@utoronto.ca • (416) 946-7599. You can also visit open-pharmacy-research.ca/research-projects/existing-services/pharmacist-prescribing.

OPEN's funding

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